Durgapur unit is dependent on the decision of the competent authority in the Government, the recommendations of the GOM and the final outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR.

Decline in Growth of Pharma Industry

2152. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been decline of growth in pharma industry during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are likely to encourage the pharma industry in order to increase the growth rate in the industry; and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The Drug Policy, 1986 is directed towards creating an environment conducive to channelising new investment into the pharmaceutical industry, to encouraging cost-effective production with economic sizes, and to introducing new technologies and new drugs; and strengthening the indigenous capability for production of drugs. A Committee, namely, the Drug Price Control Review Committee was set up to review the present price control mechanism with a view to reducing the rigours of price control, where they had become counter productive. Another Committee, the Pharmaceutical Research & Development Committee was set up to recommend measures to strengthen the research & development capability of the Pharmaceutical Industry in the country and identify the support required by Indian Pharmaceutical companies to undertake domestic R&D. Both the Committees have since submitted their reports suggesting measures in that direction. Changes in the Drug Policy will

take into consideration all relevant factors including the recommendations of the Committees.

Reduction of Drug Price Control

2153. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has reached any consensus on reduction of drug price control to 24 per cent from 40 per cent at present as well as taking 55 drugs out of control from the present 74 drugs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; price-wise, drug-wise;

(c) how much time Government would take to place before Parliament the new Pharmaceutical Policy;

(d) whether any funds has been allocated for promoting R and D in the pharma industry under the new Policy; and

(e) if so, which agency is likely to manage/operate such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A Committee, namely, the Drug Price Control Review Committee was set up to review the present price control mechanism with a view to reducing the rigours of price control, where they had become counter productive. Another Committee, the Pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee was set up to recommend measures to strengthen the research and development capability of the Pharmaceutical Industry in the country and identify the support required by Indian Pharmaceutical companies to undertake domestic R & D. Both the Committees have since submitted their reports suggesting measures in that direction. Changes in the Pharmaceutical Policy will take into consideration all relevant factors including the recommendations of the Committees. The Government's decision that the span of price control would be reduced substantially was a part of the Budget speech on the 28th Feb, 2001.